

RASTER DATA COMPRESSION APPARATUS AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A plurality of patterns such as solid patterns, edge patterns, half-tone patterns, and verbatim data are losslessly represented in a compressed raster data stream. A pattern selection module selects among the various patterns to provide the best combination of lossless representations according to particular criteria such as storage compactness. A packet formatting module packs multiple pattern identifiers and lossless representations into a packet which may be transmitted compactly. Upon receipt, a packet deformatting module unpacks the pattern identifiers and lossless representations from the packet. After deformatting, a pattern decoding module uses the pattern identifier to activate appropriate pattern generation modules. Each pattern generation module regenerates data according to an indicated pattern to recreate the original raster data.

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